

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**



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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Carolyn A. Parry, MPH *CP*
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: August 19, 2010

SUBJECT: VFC Update

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)

The VFC Program does permit HPV4 (quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine – *Gardasil*®) to be administered to males 9 through 18 years of age to reduce their likelihood of acquiring genital warts. This is a *permissive* rather than an *affirmative* recommendation for males by the ACIP. A permissive recommendation means that the provider is not expected to offer this vaccine proactively to VFC-eligible patients. However, the provider is expected to offer the vaccine upon the request of the patient/parent. The provider may also choose to offer this vaccine proactively to VFC-eligible patients.

The two HPV vaccines on the market are not interchangeable for use on males. However, for females, whenever feasible, the same HPV vaccine should be used for the entire vaccination series. No studies address interchangeability of HPV vaccines. However, if the vaccine provider does not know or have available the HPV vaccine product previously administered, either HPV vaccine can be used to complete the series to provide protection against HPV 16 and 18. For protection against HPV 6 or 11-related genital warts, a vaccination series with less than 3 doses of HPV4 might provide less protection against genital warts than a complete 3-dose HPV4 series. Therefore, due to our small volume, the Montana Immunization Program will only be providing *Gardasil*® for use on males and females.

Inactivate Polio Vaccine (IPV)

IPV is not currently available in syringes, only multi-dose vials. With the use of *Kinrix*® (DTaP/IPV) for immunizations administered to 4-6 year olds, the use of single antigen IPV and DTaP has decreased significantly. We are trying to make sure that there is some single antigen IPV available in every community. If the clinic does not use much IPV, we may ask you to refer such children to the health department in an effort to keep our vaccine wastage low. If you still have a large amount of single antigen IPV and single antigen DTaP available, we will ask you to deplete this supply before ordering *Kinrix*®.

Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV)

Earlier this year, *Menveo*® was shipped due to *Menactra*® only being available with very short expiration dates. We have received a number of comments regarding the administering of the vaccine. As a result, we will only be shipping *Menactra*®, unless a situation with availability or short dated vaccine occurs.

MMR-Varicella (MMR-V)

MMR-V is still available to order. If you still have a large amount of single antigen MMR and single

antigen varicella available, we will ask you to deplete this supply before ordering MMR-V.

Vaccine Supply

The vaccine supply for all the vaccines is good. However, we have run into some challenges with the presentation that we have ordered, i.e. 5 pack syringes, not being available after we placed the orders. This either causes a backorder situation or in the case with Hepatitis A, the orders needed to be cancelled and re-ordered. This caused a delay in some clinics receiving the vaccine they requested. We apologize for this delay. We monitor the reports daily to try and minimize this from occurring. If you have any questions about vaccines missing in your order, please contact Home IV Pharmacy at 723-4099.

A number of vaccines have now switched to 10 dose minimum orders. A new vaccine order form (8/2010) is included. Please discard any older versions of the form and replace with the current order form.

Discarding of Multi-dose vials

This notice was sent out on August 6, 2010. We have received several questions about discarding open multi-dose vials prior to expiration. No open vials of vaccine supplied by the Montana Immunization Program should be discarded prior to expiration, unless a temperature excursion occurs that makes the vaccine not viable or indicated by the manufacturer.

On July 20, 2010, The Joint Commission published a FAQ sheet on its website that further clarifies its requirements for the use of multi-dose vials and their expiration dates.

The new FAQ sheet exempts all vaccines from the 28 day rule and states: "The CDC Immunization Program states that vaccines are to be discarded per the manufacturer's expiration date. The Joint Commission is applying this approach to all vaccines (whether a part of the CDC or state immunization programs or purchased by healthcare facilities) with the understanding that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately (correct temperature is maintained, frequency of temperature checks, etc). Following the guidelines provided in the package insert is very important to ensure integrity of the vaccine."

The complete Multi-dose Vial FAQs can be viewed through the following link:

http://www.jointcommission.org/AccreditationPrograms/LongTermCare/Standards/09_FAQs/MM/Multi-dose_Vials.htm

Reminders

- Monthly Vaccine Report forms are due to Home IV Pharmacy by the 5th of each month. These reports must be current and complete, including expiration dates, before the order will be placed.
- Please don't forget to include the shipments received during the month in the *Doses Rec. During Month* column.
- Please remember when returning non-viable vaccine to McKesson, fax a copy of the MT Wasted and Expired Vaccine form to 444-2920. For labels to return wasted and expired vaccine please call 444-5580.
- Current forms can be found at www.immunization.mt.gov.
- In the next few months we will be sending out a survey where we will need you to select one of the DTaP containing products, i.e., Pentacel® or Pediarix® and a Hib product to be the VFC vaccine you stock.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580.